

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

## Jottings.

SOME time ago the editor of the A. B. J. offered three prizes for the three best essays on extracted honey. This was a commendable but dangerous bit of enterprise on his part. The delicate part of it lay in making the awards. Every parent thinks his own baby the best, and most writers have a high opinion of their own productions. It must have been a foregone conclusion on the part of the editor, when receiving the many papers in response to his offer that dissatisfaction and disappointment would result—however just the awards might be. "Number two" thinks the one mistake the editor made was in not making known the judges. Doubtless he is as capable of making a selection as anyone else, but the fact remains the contributors are still in the dark as to whether those chosen were competent or incompetent for the task assigned, and where there is no guarantee of competency in the judges, there can be little confidence in the justice of their awards. Discontent might have been averted (if such exists) if some such plan as the following had been adopted. If when the papers were in his hands, the editor had sent to each contributor the names of say a dozen people of recognized literary bee-keeping ability and requested the writers to name three out of the number to act as judges. When all had returned the marked list the three having the most votes to be judges. The plan adopted however does no one any great injustice, because week after week the several papers are being published and submitted to the tribunal of public opinion before whom the papers would be judged on their merits. As far as these papers have yet appeared there is room for a diversity of opinion as to whether the best articles were given the prizes. To the careful readers of these articles there is one thing clear enough, viz., that the judges were largely influenced in their decision by the description of "how to extract honey." It is a question in the writer's mind if this should have had any weight at all in leading up to a decision. The articles were for the perusal of the readers of the journal, and it is doubtful if there is five per cent. of their number less familiar with the *modus operandi* of taking honey from the comb than the writers of the essays. There is no information to be gained from the communication of what is already known. I think it will be conceded that the merits of these papers are in proportion to the information they convey, and not in well rounded descriptions of what everyone is famil-

iar with. "Extracted honey" was the subject given—the machinery and manipulation by which it is procured is a minor part of the topic.

If I continue my jottings I may earn for myself a reputation of being a grumbler. Well, call me what you please, if you don't call me too late for dinner. I always feel the better for saying what I believe ought to be said. I have had a desire for some time to say that I don't like one result that followed from the last meeting of the International. I refer to the fact that notwithstanding the overwhelming number of Canadian names on the membership roll, all officers of the Association are United States beekeepers. Admitting as I freely do, that they are good men in their respective places, yet there is an appearance of monopolizing selfishness in the selection that is not creditable to the nominating committee.

NUMBER TWO.

## Foul Brood Inspection.

AN INSPECTOR WANTED FOR EACH DISTRICT.

A CORRESPONDENT who does not want his name given writes us as follows:

"In reading the draft of the Foul Brood Bill, in the last issue of the JOURNAL, the thought came very forcibly to my mind, as to whether it would not be better to have more inspectors, and as the editor says, give the power of appointment to the directors, or I think better still, to the members in annual meeting, and elect one inspector for each district. By so doing the expenses would be much lighter, the inspector having only short distances to travel. Think of an inspector having to travel from one end of the Province to the other to look after a colony or two of bees, and then to be called back again, perhaps in a day or two, to the same place, by my plan all this would be avoided. An inspector would be more interested too in keeping down disease in his own immediate vicinity. I think there would be no trouble in appointing a capable man for each district—anyone that has had experience with foul brood would have no trouble in detecting it. I would by no means have a fixed salary—pay the inspector according to the work done. The other provisions of the Bill are A 1, and I hope its passage will have the desired effect."

About May 1st Dr. G. L. Tinker, New Philadelphia, O., will issue a small hand book on "Bee-keeping for profit, or how to get the largest yield of comb or extracted honey." We have not yet learned the price.